

“State of the City” address in Golden City Manager Mike Bestor presents perspectives, opinions

Kevin Duffy
Content Manager

“Our biggest priority is the Beltway that won’t go away,” proclaimed City Manager Mike Bestor during his opening remarks at the Golden Chamber of Commerce’s annual “State of the City” Address. Bestor spoke to prominent members of the Golden business and political community on the city’s on-going commitment to sustainability, public safety, responsible development and quality of life.

He proudly announced the recent success of Golden in establishing several “Task Forces” that are aimed at addressing walkability, sustainability and affordable housing in the Golden community. Bestor made sure to point out that the effort has, “lots of young people involved,” including students from the Colorado School of Mines.

Current ASCSM Vice-Presidential candidate Anant Pradhan is one of those young people attempting to get involved in efforts. When asked about his interest in the task force, Pradhan said, “As a student at the Colorado School of Mines, it is important to involve

yourself in local community matters to ensure a healthy relationship with the City. Manager Mike Bestor has done an excellent job of attracting student input, especially on sustainability efforts.”

“The idea itself is dumb,” asserted Bestor. “There is no good transportation reason for completing the beltway.”

Bestor continued his speech by focusing on Public Safety and welfare concerns in Golden. “The police department makes me very proud,” he said, thanking John Bales and William Kilpatrick, Golden’s Fire Chief and Police Chief, respectively; Bestor also commented on their continued record of excellence.

According to Bestor, the Golden Fire Department receives an average of 100 calls per month and is growing by 10 percent per year. The grand opening of Fire Station #1 on 10th street will help to handle the growing demands as well as provide a place for volunteer

firefighters to live while on duty.

The remainder of Bestor’s prepared remarks focused on the nearing completion of Gateway Station, a mixed-use community center featuring 22 residences and several thousand square feet of office and commercial space along Washington Avenue and 13th Street. The Golden Urban Renewal Authority (GURA) has worked with local politicians and developers alike to ensure that the project enhances the character of Downtown Golden, while providing an additional stream of revenue for the city.

Bestor was quick to compliment the project and those involved. “Now that the scaffolding has come off on Washington, isn’t that [building] beautiful?” he asked. Mark Heller, the Secretary and Executive Director of GURA, was also thanked for his diligence in guiding the project’s thus far successful development. In his closing formal remarks, Bestor thanked the city and its residents. “I appreciate serving you,” he said.

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Distinguished Faculty Lecturer discusses ceramics in modern world

David Sommer
Staff Writer

“The history of Ceramic Engineering is very much like the time-lapsed photograph of an Iridium flare,” bright in the center and fading at the edges. “Ceramics has now entered a period of decreasing intensity,” began Dennis W. Readey, winner of the 2007 Colorado School of Mines Faculty Senate Distinguished Lecturer Award.

Faculty members, students, and guests gathered in Petroleum Hall to hear Dr. Readey speak on the history of ceramic engineering and ceramic engineering education.

“Ceramic engineering,” continued Readey, “is the oldest form of nanotechnology, dealing with solid particles in the 10-1000 nanometer range.” In addition, “when dealing with metals, mechanical properties are considered most important, yet, when dealing with ceramics, one must consider the thermal, electrical, and magnetic properties just as much as the mechanical ones.”

“Ceramics is a vertically integrated pro-

cess,” involving “processing, structure, and properties,” said Readey. “If you screw up on the processing, it will have an adverse or unwanted effect on the properties of the material you are trying to form.” Formal education in ceramic engineering, then, is a necessity in a materials-oriented world. In the eyes of Readey, effective and efficient processes, in addition to standardized knowledge, are a must.

There are two types of ceramics: traditional and modern/advanced. Traditional ceramics include heavy clay products, terra cotta, abrasives, cement, white ware, glass, and refractories. When examined on a microscopic level, Readey finds that “there is little correlation between the traditional ceramic’s microstructure and its properties.”

“Advanced ceramics appeared, roughly, after 1950.” These include many components found in armor, electronics, electronic processing, structural materials and generally “more complex systems.”

High-pressure sodium lamps, found on almost every street corner, are pertinent examples of the prevalent use of modern ceramics.

Readey also spoke of the history of the study of ceramics. “Edward Orton, Jr. began ceramic engineering at Ohio State University in 1894,” and Readey asserts that it is to his

“Ceramic engineering is the oldest form of nanotechnology, dealing with solid particles in the 10-1000 nanometer range.”

credit that ceramics became more readily incorporated and standardized in materials science. Yet, since its formation, ceramic engineering has enjoyed only a brief time

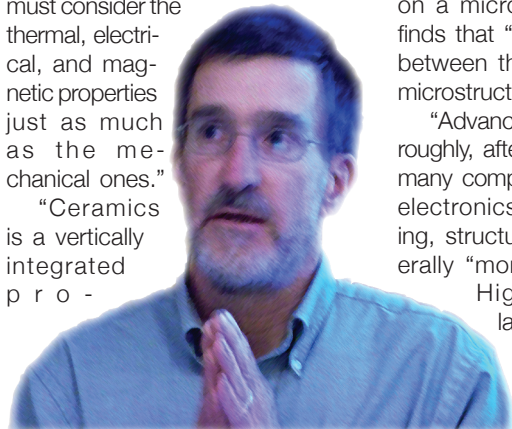
in the spotlight of engineering disciplines. “Its popularity peaked in the 1970’s and, since then, it has been on the decline,” Readey observed.

That is not to say, however, that the study of ceramics has disappeared entirely; it has merely been incorporated into materials engineering, losing its explicit title as its own field.

Readey maintained that, despite its decline as an independent field, ceramic engineering remains an important aspect of the technological world.

While cutting-edge technology may be found elsewhere, the study of ceramics is pertinent because ceramics are prevalent.

Readey received his BS in metallurgical engineering from the University of Notre Dame and went on to study ceramic engineering at MIT. He joined the Mines faculty in 1989 while heading the Colorado Center for Advanced Ceramics.



PATRICK BESEDA / OREDIGGER

“EMO” cultural phenomenon invades CSM student body

Tim Weilert
Content Manager

In the 1980’s *The Breakfast Club* defined teenage angst. A group of teenagers trying desperately to escape the social classes they had been placed in became the standard for young people everywhere, but that was over 20 years ago. In the 1990’s, Kurt Cobain and the grunge movement assumed the definition of teenage angst. With heavy music, nihilistic lyrics, and shredded clothing, Cobain gave a voice to a generation that did not want to fit in to their parent’s world. Along with the untimely death of Cobain came an end to grunge’s hold on America’s youth. Fast forward ten years, to the present day. Emo has become the new definition of teenage angst for Americans.

The original emo movement actually began around the same time *The Breakfast Club* was popular, during the mid 1980’s. At that time, bands such as Fugazi and Rites of Spring sought

to redefine how punk rock music was done. In underground clubs on the Washington D.C. music scene, these “emo” bands began a revolution of feelings and emotions that quickly spread. However, it should be noted that these groups do not fit easily into the modern definition of the term “emo,” because their music did not necessarily affect change in the worlds of fashion and pop-culture.

As the years wore on, emo began to change. Always an underground scene, emo began making its way into the Midwest. Bright Eyes, Sunny Day Real Estate, Elliott Smith, Further Seems Forever, and Jimmy Eat World became increasingly popular. Also during this time, R.E.M. released their hit single “Everybody Hurts,” a song which emphasized teenage sorrow. As the scene changed yet again in the late 1990’s, Jimmy Eat World saw mainstream success with their album *Bleed American* and Further Seems Forever front man Chris Carrabba struck out on his own by founding Dashboard Confessional. Throughout this time, the term “emo” came into wider usage, however what exactly defined “emo” in music began to be blurred. Moving ahead to the current day, Dashboard Confessional has become increasingly mainstream, while other emo bands have made their mark on society. My Chemical Romance, Fall Out Boy, Taking Back Sunday, Thursday, Brand New, and a slew of other groups have found their own niches for expression within the movement.



TIM WEILERT / OREDIGGER

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Poor student turnout for CSM’s new Emergency Alert system

Jake Rezac
Staff Writer

Earlier this year, the Mines Emergency Alert system (MEA) was introduced on campus. The MEA is designed to alert students, faculty, and staff to campus-wide emergencies via text and voicemail messages, as well as through email and other communicative

devices. The system is touted as being very easy to sign up for, and yet, according to the Associated Press, less than 40% of students, faculty, and staff are signed up for similar systems across the country. Many safety experts believe the lack of participation is due to text message costs.

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Freshman wins Blackwell Award

Mark Barkmeier
Staff Writer

Every semester the Liberal Arts and International Studies department selects one student for the Blackwell Award in Creative Expression. The award recognizes students who have excelled in representing the human condition: humanity’s relationship with nature, technology, and essence of a culture. This award is usually given to a senior

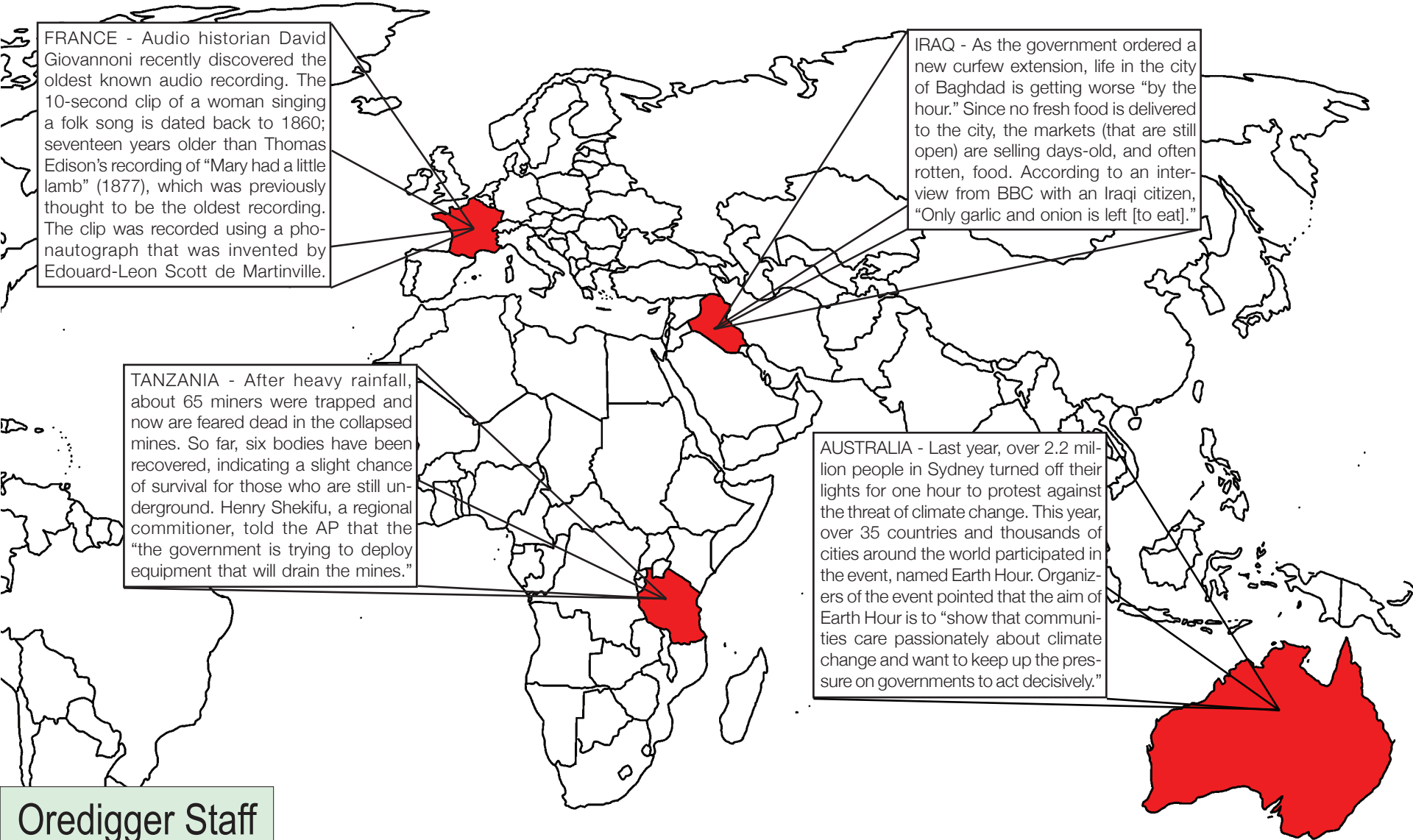
in an upper division LAIS course.

This semester, the Blackwell Award has been presented to freshman Abdullah Ahmed for four essays written in Nature and Human Values. Ahmed is the first freshman to be nominated or win the Blackwell Award. “When I was informed that I won, I jumped from my chair,” said Ahmed.

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World News in Brief

Abdullah Ahmed, Asst. Business Manager



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Denver mayor to talk “sustainability” on CSM campus

Rachel Wix

Staff Writer

Denver’s Mayor, John Hickenlooper, is coming to CSM on Monday, April 7. He will be giving a talk entitled “Our Obligation to Sustainability,” at the request of the CSM Sustainability Committee here on campus. Planning on little formal speech time, Hickenlooper wants to hold a question and answer session for about half of his visit. The school is very excited for the mayor to come. Posters across campus are asking students to RSVP, to make sure there will be enough sack lunches available. “[We] have around 100

RSVPs so far, so we think we’ll have a full house,” said Trisha Kendall, Associate Director of Donor Communications and Relations for the CSM Office of Institutional Advancement. Hickenlooper graduated from Wesleyan University with a bachelor’s degree in English (1974) and a master’s in Geology (1980). He started his career working for a petroleum company, and went on to build the Wynkoop Brew-

ing Company. He was elected the mayor of Denver in 2003. He won re-election in 2007 with 87 % of the vote. Since being elected, he has encouraged many programs involving the integration of environmentally friendly businesses. On the Greenprint Denver website (<http://www.greenprintdenver.org/>) Mayor Hickenlooper wrote, “I have always maintained what I considered a healthy perspective

on the need to balance environmental and economic considerations in my decisions.” When asked to comment on the upcoming event, Trisha Kendall said, “I have a feeling he will talk about Greenprint Denver.” This city-wide initiative, started by Hickenlooper and friends, works with Denver’s Climate Action Plan to create a cleaner and better environment in Denver and the surrounding areas. Founded by a Mines alum, the CSM Sustainability Committee strives to educate the student body about sustainability options. The presentation will start at 12:00 p.m. in Ballrooms A, B & C of the Student Center.

Since being elected, [Hickenlooper] has encouraged many programs involving integration of environmentally friendly business.

Physics Colloquium investigates H₂ storage system

Patrick Beseda

Staff Writer

In a world concerned with global warming, CO₂ emissions, carbon footprints, renewable energy, and depleting fossil fuels, the physics and metallurgical and mechanical engineering departments at the Colorado School of Mines are focused on solutions. “Storage of the hydrogen is the problem,” said Dr. Bruce Clemens, the presenter at last Thursday’s Physics and MME Colloquium. After introducing the advantages of hydrogen as an energy source, Clemens put the listeners on the front lines of the research. Dr. Clemens, a graduate of both CSM and the California Institute of Technology, presented research regarding nanostructured materials for the storage of hydrogen. He cited collaborators from all over the

country, including the local National Renewable Energy Laboratory. Hydrogen can be stored in several different ways, each of which has its own issues that need to be resolved. It can be stored as a gas in a pressurized container, which can’t efficiently store enough to power a vehicle. Hydrogen can also be stored cryogenically in a liquid form; this method, however, is held up by hydrogen leaks and cooling issues. Lastly, hydrogen can be stored in the form of metal hydrides. These materials are reacted with hydrogen to chemically store the hydrogen until it is needed. Clemens addressed this last method in his presentation. “There are a few things that make a material suitable for hydrogen storage,” said Clemens. According to him, a material, when reacted with hydrogen, must possess high volumetric density, high mass density and good thermodynamic properties. Dr. Clemens and his graduate students have been testing several different materials and many different methods of storing hydrogen in metals. There have been many obstacles, but progress has been made and there are many theories waiting to be tested. Current problems include storage capacity, enthalpy of the reaction, and reaction speeds. Clemens turned his talk to nanostructures and carbon-based materials. He noted that such materials have certain advantages, such as being light, inexpensive, and naturally abundant. Conversely, they possess a relatively low hydrogen storage level and the bulk production of carbon nanotube structures would be difficult. Clemens noted that these materials show promise, as researchers can tune the nanotubes in order to control the thermodynamics

and the storage capacity. “In order to have a big effect, you have to go really small,” said Clemens, noting that such materials are on the order of a few nanometers, or a thousand times smaller than the width of a human hair. “When you make things smaller, solid state reactions go much faster,” he said. By tuning the nanostructures, researchers have been able to begin changing the properties of these storage materials. In addition, Clemens spoke briefly about metal-doped nanotubes that use metal catalysts to offer competing reactions, speeding up reaction times. These catalysts, such as palladium, can be expensive and/or heavy, bringing their use into question. Clemens concluded, with an optimistic outlook, that “nanotubes offer an intriguing hydrogen storage opportunity.”

"Green"-washing the M?

The M becomes more eco-friendly

Akira Rattenbury
Staff Writer

The 'M' of white-washed stones on the eastern face of Mt. Zion has been a feature of the Golden area since 1908. Not permanently lit until the 1930s, the M has seen raids from rival schools, fierce lightning storms, and poor white-washing skills from freshmen during its 100 years.

The M's official caretakers, the Blue Key International Honor Society, hope to make the M a little more 'green.'

"We are currently looking into replacing the entire light bulb system on the 'M' with LED's," said Steven Meyerhoff, CSM junior and Assistant M Chair.

Today, over 500 incandescent bulbs are illuminated nightly to generate the M.

With a few minor changes to the circuitry, and no change to the design, Blue Key hopes to save the school some cash by making the switch.

"Currently we use about 72 kilo-watt hours (kWh) per night, and we are going to cut it down to about 10 kWh per night," said Meyerhoff. "The change will reduce the electrical cost of operating the M by about \$1,800 per year."

Blue Key purchases the generic 11 watt incandescent light bulbs used on the M today from a local distributor. Each of these bulbs have a maximum of 5,000 operating hours.

Light bulb manufacturer Sylvania has been selected for its durable, relatively cheap LED bulbs, which use a meager 1.6 watts and last over 30,000 hours.

The overhaul will not be cheap, however. Blue Key has submitted proposals for ASCSM and Tech Fee funds to offset the steep initial cost of the new system.

"At \$9 per bulb, we are looking at a base cost of \$22,000 just for the bulbs," said Meyerhoff.

This amount includes over 1600 bulbs needed to make the white, red, and blue patterns as well as mosaic bulbs which morph colors over time.

The change requires Facilities Management to "dial down the voltage of the whole system."

In addition to being longer-lasting, more durable, and energy saving, the new LED lights will have a more crisp white light.

"On a good night, you can see it from [Denver International Airport]," said Meyerhoff. "With the new LED lights, you *will* see the M from the airport."

To commemorate the upcoming 100 year anniversary of the M, Blue Key hopes to sell the old bulbs off as a fundraiser.

"We are thinking we are going to sell a packet, likely through the [Golden] Chamber of Commerce, that includes a light bulb from the M with a sticker, t-shirt and probably a pamphlet," said Brad Bettag, Blue Key Member and de-facto Anniversary organizer.

During E-Days, an alumni panel featuring former students spanning the past century will "talk about their memories about the M and about the campus," said Bettag.

Blue Key also hopes to host a ribbon-cutting ceremony, and community celebration to commemorate the changes to the M around the time of the fall M-Climb for the class of 2012.



COURTESY MINES MAGAZINE

Eco-friendly: The lights on the M are being replaced with LEDs

Just what is an asset allocation anyway?

James Larsen
Guest Columnist

Ask this of any ten financial institutions, insurance companies, financial planners, CPA's, or lawyers with a securities license and you will likely get as many answers. Basically, the common denominator is a series of pigeon holes that are "suited" to conservative, moderate conservative, moderate, moderate aggressive, or aggressive investor profiles. These profiles are revealed through a series of "What If" questions designed to elicit an emotional response. Add a couple of questions about your time horizon and you will become one of the five described investors. Why only five categories? Probably to keep it simple, since so much of the financial industry can be too overwhelming or complicated for a lot of people.

Let's dig a little deeper. Webster says that "to allocate" is "to apportion for a specific purpose." An asset allocation is an apportionment of your investable assets for the purpose of achieving your investment goals. As a conservative investor, you may want to avoid losing money. As an aggressive investor, you may want to accept investment risks that include the potential to lose money. There is an asset allocation suited to both investors.

It is generally accepted that an aggressive investor understands

the risk/reward tradeoff and is willing to weather periods of decline in order to reap greater returns in an up market. Having a long time horizon helps also, since the stock market has generally risen over the long run.

So just how does a conservative investment portfolio differ from an aggressive portfolio or any of the other three? Here is where you begin to understand why there were ten answers to your question. First, there are different classes of assets. Equities may include large cap, mid-cap, small cap, growth, value and international stocks. Fixed income may include government bonds, municipal bonds, corporate bonds and cash equivalents such as CD's or money market accounts. Then there are open ended mutual funds, closed ended mutual funds, unit trusts, real estate investment trusts, real estate and even collectibles such as coins, antique cars, or vintage wines. Each of those ten questions you asked got a response that reflected the responder's personal preference for investment vehicles. Even if you had limited your question to ten financial institutions or ten insurance companies, you would likely have received ten different replies.

For example, as you ask ten financial institutions, you will see a conservative investment portfolio change. In general,

a conservative portfolio will be heavily weighted in fixed income with some weight given to cash and less weight given to equities. The choice of investments used to achieve the "conservative" ratio of fixed income to equity will vary by firm also.

As the investment profile changes from conservative to moderate conservative and beyond, the ratio of fixed income to equity changes toward increasing amounts of equity until the aggressive portfolio may be comprised of only equity investments. To illustrate this, I will use a current recommendation from a Senior Financial Advisor I know. His conservative portfolio contains 5% international equity, 15% domestic equity, 65% fixed income and 15% cash. His aggressive portfolio contains 24% international equity, 70% domestic equity and 6% fixed income. The three other investment profiles are merely step changes in the ratio of fixed income to equity.

No doubt these proportions

If you don't have the time or inclination to study the market and become familiar with the myriad investment choices, my advice would be to find an investment professional you know, like, and trust.

change as market conditions change, but his selection of investment vehicles has also changed to reflect current market trends. For example, a prior domestic equity recommendation would have included a large cap growth fund. Today that recommendation is replaced by a recommendation to use a commodity-based fund since commodities have been holding up while the large cap

growth fund has suffered under adverse market conditions. How long will these recommendations remain in place? For as long as the market continues to exhibit the volatility it has shown for the past 6 to 14 months, these recommendations will be the staple of his practice. When the market begins to exhibit a bullish trend, I would expect these portfolios and recommendations

to undergo another evaluation and possible realignment.

I previously detailed how a particular asset allocation during the period from March 2000 to December 2005 could have produced a 60% increase in value, while most of us saw 30-50% declines in our 401(k)s and IRAs during that period. How could you ensure that your portfolio would rise in value when others are falling? If you don't have the time or inclination to study the market and become familiar with the myriad investment choices, my advice would be to find an investment professional you know, like, and trust. Too many people accept the ups and downs in the market and shrug off the results with an "It Happens" attitude.

A proactive approach, even if it is only to call a broker, advisor, or professional to chat about what they see on the horizon, is your best defense in a down market and your best offense in an up market. Additionally, having an appropriate asset allocation and making regular contributions, even in tough times, will help you achieve your financial goals, whatever they may be.

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Series of essays from NHV wins Blackwell Award

Winning Essay: *The Ticking*

Abdullah Ahmed

NHV Short Form; Professor Toni Lefton

"The release of atom power has changed everything except our way of thinking ... the solution to this problem lies in the heart of mankind. If only I had known, I should have become a watchmaker." -Albert Einstein

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Anything that presents me, and thus my country, in a positive manner, is something that I strive for everyday," Ahmed explained. Born in Baghdad, Iraq, Ahmed has lived in the United States for four years. He knew very little English when he moved here. "I found the English language to be quite appealing and I fell in love with it, which is one of the reasons that I started writing," he said.

Professor Toni Lefton nominated Ahmed for the award. "Abdullah has not just found language, but the content of language" said Lefton in her nomination letter.

He is also humble about this accomplishment. He commented on the other nominees being in 400 level courses, and said that "I applaud their work as I am sure each is nothing less than amazing." One of Abdullah's essays will be in this issue of the Oredigger.

Students are nominated by LAIS professors in their courses, who write a brief letter in support of the student, explaining the recommendation. Each nominee is then asked to write a cover letter describing their process and vision for their work. The nominee also submits the final version of their piece.

The Blackwell Award was established in spring 2006. The award can also be given for a unique revelation or insight, mastery of a genre, or an imaginative and beautifully crafted work of art. The student's submission can be expressed through the genres of poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction, music, or the artistic representation of academic inquiry.

Bestor evaluates Golden

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Asked to extrapolate on his initial remarks with regards to the current status of the Beltway, Bestor made it clear where he, and subsequently the City of Golden, stood on the matter. "The idea itself is dumb," asserted Bestor. "There is no good transportation reason for completing the beltway." He went on to note that support for the beltway is development motivated, citing "massive development of 184-ft buildings" in select corridors north of Golden. Acknowledging the city's current position, Bestor remarked, "[The beltway] can't go through Golden unless we make a deal." No such deal was outlined during his remarks and he began referring to the project as the "phantom road."

Attending the event was special election candidate for Golden's Ward 4, William Fisher. After listening to Mr. Bestor's remarks, Fisher expressed his support for the City Manager's positive vision and dedication to Golden: "The positive nature of nearly all of his speech makes clear what Golden is all about, positively moving forward with sustainability, quality of life, and the many challenges that come from the high expectations of the citizens of Golden about our town."

The surreal nights of February of 1991 still haunt me with threads of delight and fear—the kind that has a bit of mystery and a bit of unwanted joy. For forty radiant nights, my mom would take my twin sister and me to the front garden, where we gazed at the baked sky with uncooked eyes. The beauty of the fireworks would merge with the magnificence of our innocent cores, and we would clap all night long. The rising flares, the unmistakable bangs, and the howls that dissolved in the distance were always present. Deep inside, we would feel something wicked crawling underneath the skin of the sky, pushing the stars farther and farther apart. Little did my sister and I know it was death. The lights were not fireworks; they were bombs—ready to bite. Before every explosion, we would hear the seconds that ticked as if they were trying to say something, but we couldn't listen. Hearts were beating, Earth was heating, fire was eating, fate was cheating, happiness was retreating, minds were competing, and death was greeting. All in one night. Now, my restlessly burning question: where do human values take place in this marathon? Technology had already exceeded our expectations in finding solutions and creating complications. But I believe that human values should not limit nor guide the development of technology; human values should strictly control each of its aspects.

History is but a proof. When great minds from every corner in the United States gathered in Los Alamos, an unseen fiend was born. The scientists, eager and blinded with enthusiasm, perfected their infant. The day it became ready, even before the sun dipped in the horizon, they sent their "Boy" to Hiroshima. It was the sixth of August, 1945. A few days later, Nagasaki was visited as well. Had some scientist objected to completing the project in the first place? Yes. Physicist Sir Joseph Rotblat, a Polish scientist, had left the Manhattan project after it had become clear that Germany was not going to develop

an atomic bomb. He knew that the reasons justified the intensions behind this project, but when the central motive vanished, the intensions dried into a different color. He left for he believed that this project contradicted human values and morals. In his well-regarded essay *Leaving the Manhattan Project*, Sir Rotblat says,

After 40 years one question keeps nagging me: have we learned enough not to repeat the mistakes we made then? ...Our prime effort must concentrate on the prevention of nuclear war, because in such a war not only morality but the whole fabric of civilization would disappear.[1]

I hold similar views concerning the usage of the atomic bomb. The bomb was not about right or wrong, nor was it about good or bad; it was about curiosity. History shows that this curiosity led to many unwanted consequences. Had it been supervised with ethical values, I believe the results could have taken a different, better turn.

Limiting something means not allowing it to exceed a certain boundary. But mathematically when the time interval stretches more and more, the limit value increases accordingly. Similarly, if technology is halted and then allowed to develop under a planned agenda, then over time, when a new discovery is made, the limiting margins outlined by ethical values will be changed to allow this discovery to flourish. Thus, time is a problem. Of course, another form of limit takes place here—the limit of advancement of technology, whether guided by human values or not. In other words, technology can not progress forever; there must be a greater boundary that scientists have not reached so far, but in time they will. And when they do, life will attain a new meaning. In his essay *Why the Future Doesn't Need Us*, Bill Joy, an American computer scientist, says:

By 2030, we are likely to be able to build machines, in quantity, a million times as powerful as the personal computers of today - sufficient to implement the

dreams of Kurzweil and Moravec.[2]

It seems, therefore, limiting the technology will not help as time is closing in, and artificial life might just be a few years away.

Artificial life may not be our greatest threat at the moment, for it is our own minds that sometimes break loose the chains of hostility. Only two decades ago, the Saddam regime used one of the most appalling technological weapons—chemical weapons. In 1988, Saddam ordered several aircrafts to drop bombs on a Kurdish town located 150 miles north of Baghdad. The bombs, wondering how unfortunate a ticking world in the night crumbles, dove into the darkness of the evening of March the sixteenth, and they silently vacuumed thousands of lives. Like wet smoke, their spirits levitated, grieving over those who lived: those who became deformed emotionally and disfigured physically. Saddam was not led by mechanical chips inserted into his spine; his own mind had consciously broken one of the chains. Was there a motive? The answer is yes, but if strict moral values were present, I am sure another decision would have been made.

When the atom was finally broken, humanity for the first time knelt down and gazed at the wonder. Every mind that gathered there in the desert knew the results. After all, the calculations approved. But before the bomb stretched its warmth, there came the ticking. Five, four, three, two, one...Prosper! Before every event or discovery, almost all the results are known, yet why would we agree to move forward with the idea, knowing the destructive effects? What will keep us from halting during the ticking? It is during those moments the great decisions should be made. Without human values, the ticking takes the prerequisites of life up to the cusp. All that is needed is a little push, and civilizations will drown into the ground. Ai, a poet and an author, says in *Testimony of J. Robert Oppenheimer*, "We tear ourselves down atom by atom; till elec-

tron and positron; we become our own transcendent annihilation." [3]

Three years after the bombing of the Kurdish town, the cycle started again. Baghdad had become under the threat of chemical weapons when rumors spread the word that the United States was planning on using toxic gas bombs on the capital of Iraq. I remember sitting on the turquoise marble stairs, next to a cage with four unaware finches, observing my father as he sealed the edges of the windows and the fine cracks on the doors with duct tape. We were told it was safer this way. We waited as time began slowing down, and suddenly the ticking started. Five, four, three, two, one... Only silence! Hour zero never came. Maybe the rumors were not true. Or maybe—just maybe—during those seconds a decision was made, and thousands of lives were saved including mine. If this was the case, then I hope this is where we are heading.

The negative effects of technology are still visible around us today. Ethical morals must control—not guide—the evolution of science because guiding something means *recommending* a path for it to take. But when placing technology under the control of human values, we can ensure a safe future—or at least a safer one. By no mean technology is a poison, rather a gift that must be clearly taken care of. In her poem entitled *Discovery*, Wislawa Szymborska says, "I believe in the great discovery; I believe in the man who will make the discovery." [4] The only point that we need to understand is that even if those negative effects of this discovery disappear over time, new ones will form and speared to every corner. It is on our shoulders to ensure this will not happen.

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Understanding the "EMO" culture

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

So now that the music side of the movement has been covered, what of its social implications? The basis for emo music was (and is) an almost over-the-top emphasis on self expression, sadness, and emotion. Emo culture has been stereotyped by these standards. With almost derogatory implications, someone who is emo is considered an outcast or marginalized person due to their appearance and temperament. As a stereotype, emos are often considered to be depressed, homosexual, and consumed by the emo music scene.

This is where the ice is at its thinnest. Not only are many people prematurely and unfairly judged on their appearances, but some have been attacked. Just this last week, throughout the nation of Mexico, there have been anti-emo riots and attacks. TIME magazine interviewed Victor Mendoza, a youth worker in Mexico City, and here is what he had to say, "At the core of this is the homophobic issue. The

other arguments are just window dressing for that," said Mendoza. "This is not a battle between music styles at all. It is the conservative side of Mexican society fighting against something different."

Brennan Sprinkle, a CSM student, had a few strong opinions about the current state of emo culture. "Emo is the worst genre of music, and many people generalize but when it comes down to it, any variety of emotional music, such as the Rolling Stone's "Paint It Black," could be called 'emo.' The idea of generalizing an entire group of people that wear dark clothing and tight pants as emo is insulting," said Sprinkle. "I don't do many of the things that emos do for attention, but I wear clothing with skulls and hearts and tight pants, but I don't consider myself an 'emo' kid. The way that people have grouped emos with anyone who appears that way is insulting. I understand where all the genres of music come from, but I don't think people need to associate their personalities with a type of music. Talk to someone before you judge them on what they look like."

When asked about his tight pants, Sprinkle was able to shed some light on the issue: "It stems back to an idea from feminism. Where men and women should be treated equally, and our culture has become more sexual, and the fact is men have become more promiscuous [sic]. The tight pants are merely a way for a guy to show off his junk."

Although emo has become more than just a musical phenomenon, it has serious social implications. As seen in current events, emos are not appreciated and oftentimes the subject of serious slurs and violence. For a movement that bases itself upon "not being understood by anyone," emo has thus far succeeded, but at what cost?



TIM WEILERT / OREDIGGER

MUSIC REVIEW

Pennywise

Looking for a Reason to Believe

Tim Weilert
Content Manager

Since 1988, Pennywise have been turning heads with their straightforward style of punk rock. Nearly two decades since their humble beginnings, the Hermosa Beach, CA punks have come into the spotlight with their new album *Reason To Believe*, and their non-conformist distribution plans.

Fletcher Dragge, Pennywise's lead guitarist, in a recent blog, said, "We know that this will piss off a lot of people in the music industry, and what do we say to that? 'Who cares?' We've been pissing people off for 18 years. Why stop now? We have been telling people to get our records by any mean [sic] necessary for 17 years. As a band, we decided that it was time to come to terms with the facts. There are a lot of people out there who want their music for free, so we got proactive and with the help of MySpace Records and Textango we found a way to make it happen...we couldn't be more stoked...PENNYWISE FREE TO THE PEOPLE." Until April 8, the new record is available for free via MySpace, but does the album stand up to its publicity?

Pennywise have released eight albums prior to *Reason To Believe*, so they have developed their sound into what has become a standard for the So-Cal punk scene. Each song follows their straightforward, high-energy format; the only difference between

tracks really lies at the lyrical level. Unlike their past works, Pennywise doesn't focus on changing the government through protest, but rather seeks to cause change within individuals through the new album.

"Goodbye tomorrow, no need to follow, I live my own way, I won't go back 'til my last day, wake up and lead!" are the lyrics that ring out on "Faith And Hope," an anthem about self realization and individuality. The single "The Western World" is a highlight that lies in the middle part of the album. A critique of stereotypes and western culture, the song pries at the faults of popular culture. The in-depth self-examination continues on "Confusion," wherein the singer deals with issues of disillusionment and truth.

Pennywise has come to a realization that much of the music industry is still trying to find: music, like ideas, should not be controlled by distribution markets and economic gains. The band members pride themselves on allowing their music to be heard by anyone anywhere, which is an admirable aspect to the new album. For a punk record it sounds very much like what should be expected, heavy guitars and speed drumming, so in that aspect it is not a let down. The only issue with the record is that it does sound incredibly similar to older Pennywise.



MOVIE REVIEW

Animal Crackers

Kyle Clark
Staff Writer

With all the movies around, all we ever see are special effects and famous actors; very rarely does one actually view the cinematic adventure of the black-and-white screen. Who can blame them? Most of the acting is similar to today's amateurs while the image and sound quality is very poor. However, old movies are worthwhile if the actors know how to make the audience laugh no matter what time period they're in. Four examples of these are the Marx Brothers: Zeppo, Harpo, Chico, and Groucho.

The Marx Brothers have entertained many audiences throughout the years, and *Animal Crackers* is no exception. They play a wise-cracking cigar lover, an Italian hustler, a mute with an odd hairstyle, and "the only normal one." The story is about a lady named Mrs. Rittenhouse, who is holding a house party where her wealthy friend is going to unveil a famous painting. During this time, Captain Spaulding (Groucho) has just come back from Africa.

Of course, this is where the antics begin.

Capt. Spaulding: I used to know a fellow who looked exactly

like you by the name of Emanuel Ravelli. Are you his brother?

Ravelli: I am Emanuel Ravelli.

Capt. Spaulding: You're Emanuel Ravelli?

Ravelli: I am Emanuel Ravelli.

Capt. Spaulding: Well, no wonder you look like him. But I still insist there is a resemblance.

Ravelli: Heh, heh, he thinks I look alike.

Capt. Spaulding: Well, if you do, it's a tough break for both of you.

The story is rather dry without the familiar slapstick humor of the Three Stooges, but it still has something attractive about it. The film has the unique gift of making you think you know the flow of the story, and then it changes it just enough for the audience to notice. The same can be said anytime someone is having a conversation with Groucho's character Captain Spaulding.

Capt. Spaulding: I'm sick of these conventional marriages. One woman and one man was good enough for your grandmother, but who wants to marry your grandmother? Nobody, not even your grandfather.

The film is full of satire with just the slightest hint of vulgarity (for the time period) to make it funny. It's a prime example of slap-stick comedy.



Geek of the Week

...David "AppleKong" Appelhans, Senior: Physics

Greg Smith
Staff Writer

[Oredigger] Where did 'AppleKong' come from?

[Appelhans] My hairy chest and my residents from last year would call me that when I would yell at them [sic].

It says here that you like your friends to call you D-Ra, how did that come about?

It came about from reading my name: David RA. Because I'm an RA - RAs are so cool.

If you could be in any world from a book or movie what would it be?

I would want to be in imagination land - from South Park. Either that or inside Atlas Shrugged.

Tell me something very geeky about yourself.

Sometimes I study before I go to bed and solve things while I'm sleeping - I can't think of anytime off-hand when it's worked... but it has.

What do you think is the coolest thing in science?

Pretty much just quantum stuff and that I know all of it.

What do you want to do after you graduate?

I want to get a Masters in physics, join the Army and then come back and get a geo-physics degree and probably live back home for a while see and what happens. My ultimate goal though is to work for a company where I code mindless garbage all day in a dark cubicle, but I do it all for the ladies.

What's the geekiest thing you've seen at Mines?

Someone sitting in the front row of chemistry and pulling out a PDA and a collapsible keyboard to take notes on, sittin' up all straight like.

To what extremes have you gone for schoolwork?

I've written my own code for a program when I couldn't open the app I wanted - and I've turned down girls to play Halo before. (Sorry Emily...)

Windows, Mac or Linux?

Windows. It may not be the most efficient, but I just use it.

Who is your role model?

Kevin Costner in Water World - because he survived in adverse circumstances and he

turned into a badass and I love doomsday scenarios. Or maybe Anton Chigurh, that crazy murderer from No Country for Old Men, because he lives his life so logically and has such outstanding communication skills and such a calm demeanor in dire situations.

What is the geekiest thing you own?

A reverse Polish notation HP calculator.

What do you do in your free time?

I do a lot of homework and play a lot of pool and write code to make cool and pretty pictures and rock climb [sic].

If you were told you had five days to live, what would you do?

I'd definitely stop doing physics and I'd climb the hardest mountain I could find and then if I got to the top and jump off and then, if I were still alive, I'd build a ramp and jump 15 school buses on a moped with fire and explosions [sic].

What is your favorite curse word?

Gaylord. And "oh balls."

If you could be the CEO of any company, which would it be?

Wolfram mathematica - just because.

Are you into geeky women or men?

I thought I was until I found better women. If they're "hot and not geeky" I guess is my man [sic] criterion.



GREG SMITH / OREDIGGER

Ra-rrr: Appelhans asks his friends to call him D-Ra. If they don't, he'll hit them with a frisbee.

Do you have any geeky quirks or habits?

I'm bringin' whitey tighties back - And now and then I would pronounce words wrong because I was home schooled and I would just have read the word and not know how to say it [sic].

What is your favorite book?

Atlas Shrugged, it's better than the Bible. Or numerical methods. One or the other.

What's your pet peeve at Mines?

Nerds playing video games in the computer lab at 2 in the morning instead of going home and drinking and passing out like normal people. And freshman locking themselves out of their dorms and expecting me to help - that's just annoying though. There should be an annoying person of the week.

What's the geekiest thing you've built at Mines?

And 18-ft cardboard canoe complete with car stereo system and anti-lock breaks. We couldn't fit a catalytic converter. Just kidding - but seriously it had a car stereo system.

What is your favorite kind of music?

Ghetto Krunk Rap. Those are my jams.

COOKING CORNER

GINGERSNAPS

Makes: 40 cookies
Time: 30 minutes

If you like store-bought gingersnaps, take the time some weekend to try these - they're absolutely delicious and the perfect texture.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Prep 2 cookie sheets with cooking spray.

Whisk together:

- 1 ¾ cups all-purpose flour
- ¾ tsp baking powder
- ¼ tsp baking soda
- Pinch of salt
- 2 ½ tsp ground ginger
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- ¼ tsp ground cloves

Beat in a large bowl until very fluffy:

- 6 tbsp (¾ stick) unsalted butter, softened
- ¾ cup sugar

Add and beat until well combined:

- 1 large egg
- ¼ cup dark molasses

Stir in the flour mixture until blended. Form the dough into ¾ - inch balls and arrange about 1 ½ inches apart on the cookie sheets. Bake, 1 sheet at a time, about 12 minutes. The cookies should flatten and crack a little on top. Let them cool briefly on the sheet, then remove them to a rack to cool.

This recipe was adapted from *Joy of Cooking*, and I'm also trying out their particular format, which is my personal favorite. Let me know what you think at spost@mines.edu.

Sorry about the typo last week!

- SARA POST

Engineering Days

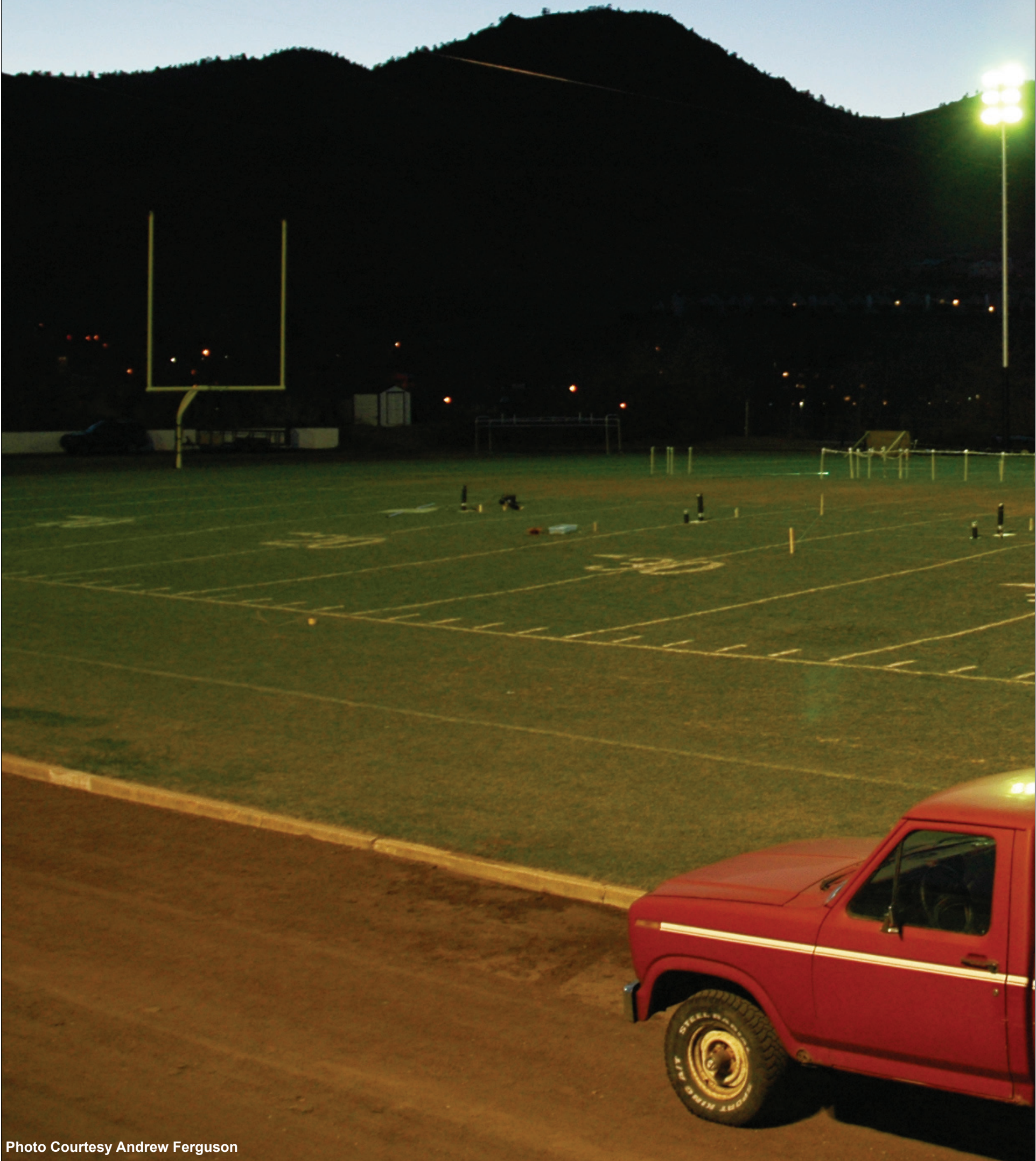


Photo Courtesy Andrew Ferguson

Letter from E-Days Chair Bruce Bugbee:

As a Colorado School of Mines student for the past 4 years, I know as well as anyone the challenges that this school presents. From academic stress to the normal growing pains associated with college, going to CSM definitely tests the spirit of us all. Thankfully, there is one weekend every year that we all look forward to as both a release and celebration—E-Days.

The highlight of most students' school year, E-Days is the time of year where we all can just let our hair down and for one weekend forget about everything else that is going on. It is a time for shenanigans and debauchery, joy and laughter, and most importantly, an escape from stress and life as a whole.

Over these past four years, I've become increasingly involved in the planning of E-Days with the culmination of being the E-Days chairman during this, my final year here at CSM. Like most seniors, I've seen it all and am sad to be moving on but know that the tradition of E-Days will live on and be improved upon by the students of the future.

We've had some great E-Days over the past few years and this year's is going to take it to the next level. Between having the largest fireworks show in school history and having Goldfinger play the E-Days concert, this year's event is jam packed with excitement.

I'd like to take this time to thank everyone that helped make E-Days possible this year because they are truly the backbone of the event. Special recognition goes to Marie Hoernickel, Derek Morgan, and Nanci Bliss in the Student Activities office for providing much needed guidance and experience. Also, many thanks go to all our E-Days sponsors since without their financial and logistical backing we would never be able to put on an event of this size. Finally, I give my deepest thanks to the members of my committee for putting up with me while we tried to bring everything together.

Finally, I want to thank each and everyone of you reading this right now for taking the time out of your busy lives to participate in this truly spectacular event. The greatest thing about E-Days is that while we are all taking a break from the doldrums of everyday life, we are doing it together as the CSM community. Go out, have fun, be safe, and have a great 2008 Engineering Days.



Bruce Bugbee, E-Days Chair

GOLDFINGER



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Goldfinger, one of So Cal's favorite ska-punk originators, is back with *Hello Destiny*. Since 1995, Goldfinger has been rocking the scene with their highly energetic and raucous live show. Fronted by well-known producer (The Used, Story of the Year) and songwriter John Feldmann, the band returns to a sound reminiscent of their self-titled gold record, *Goldfinger* (1995). *Hello Destiny* churns out a fierce blast of ska-reggae tinged punk-rock tunes and is set for release on SideOneDummy Records on April 22. *Hello Destiny* also marks the return of original guitarist Charlie Paulsen, who left the band in 1999. Darren Pfeiffer continues his Keith Moon style playing and live show antics. Kelly LeMieux rounds out the line up with his forceful and thunderous bass lines.

John Feldmann - Vocals, Guitar; Darrin Pfeiffer - Drums; Charlie Paulson - Guitar; Kelly Lemieux - Bass

Dear Students and Friends of Mines:

Welcome to the 74th annual Colorado School of Mines Engineering Days (E-Days) celebration. Mines has many wonderful traditions, but E-Days stands out for combining the important elements of scholarship, teamwork, creativity, competition, and enthusiasm for the possibilities offered by careers in engineering and applied science.

E-Days provides opportunities for students to celebrate our heritage through competing in a series of traditional events. It is also a time for visitors to explore the campus and to learn more about our broad range of educational programs and research activities. For everyone – students, faculty, staff, and visitors alike – it is an occasion to salute the accomplishments of the past, explore the exciting environment of the present, and glimpse the bright future of this unique institution.

I hope you take full advantage of this event and have a safe, enjoyable, and rewarding “MediEval” Days 2008!

Sincerely,



M. W. Scoggins
President, Colorado School of Mines



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I HATE KATE



SECOND OPENING ACT

There are some bands that make you think, their lyrics prompting further exploration. There are some bands that register on an emotional level, creating catharsis. And there are some bands that just make you want to dance your heart out. Now, blend all of these elements together and you can approximate the I Hate Kate experience. Hailing from Huntington Beach, CA, the quartet of Justin Mauriello (lead singer), Scott Hayden (bass), Jeremy Berghorst (guitar) and Mike Lund (drums) have been bringing their brand of compelling and fun music to national and international audiences over the last three years.

MEDIEVAL DAYS 2008

Schedule of Events

Thursday, April 3

9:00-9:30 pm	Fireworks Show	Brooks Field
9:30 pm-1:00 am	Kick-Off Party	Student Center
	Bingo: Digger Den	
	Swing Dance: Grand Ballroom	
	Line Dance: Ballrooms D & E	

Friday, April 4

8:15-11:30 am	Ore-cart Pull	Meet at IM Field
11:30 am	Proclamation	Capitol (West steps)
12:00-1:00 pm	Lunch	Capitol (West lawn)
3:30-4:30 pm	Special Event Presentation	Bunker Auditorium
	Deanne Bell from Smash Lab	
4:30-6:30 pm	Pig Roast/Turkey Legs	IM Field (North)
7:00 pm	Concert:	Steinhauer Fieldhouse
	Kristen Key, I Hate Kate, Goldfinger (headliner)	
	(doors open at 6:30pm)	



Saturday, April 5

10:30 am	Cardboard Boat Race	Clear Creek
11:00 am-5:00 pm	Car Show	Elm Street near IM Fields
11:00 am-5:00 pm	Field Events	IM Field (North)
	Battle of the Bands, hot wings contest, novelty events, trebuchet, free food etc.	
3:30-5:00 pm	Charity BBQ	IM Field (North)
7:00-8:30 pm	Comedians	Bunker Auditorium
	7:00-7:45pm: Alexandra McHale	
	7:45-8:30pm: Adam Hunter	
9:00 pm	Texas Hold'Em Tourney	Student Center



Late Addition to E-Days Engineers

Mechanical Engineering



Name: Tully Gallagher
Hometown: Red Lodge, MT
Favorite Professor: Dr. Pavelich - He was an awesome teacher. He had a way of making the difficult stuff seem really easy. I got lucky and had him as my recitation professor also, so I got to know him decently well.
Favorite E-Days Memory: The feel of the shockwaves and heat from the dynamite of the fireworks show, and then the Reel Big Fish concert took place the next night (I'm really old, Reel Big Fish played here E-Days '03).
Advice for Mines Students: Definitely find something here besides school that will keep you going. School can sometimes get so overwhelming that we all need a release where we can forget about school and just enjoy life.

APRIL FOOL'S GOLD

“You know- Lovin it STRONG”

Lost Keys, Found Love

Keys still missing

Cameron Frisby
Teary-eyed Writer

Let me share a heart warming story that will flood upon the Mines campus like a violent surge of cookie-wielding Girl Scouts. Recently I was approached by a love-struck fool who desperately wanted to share his story with the world. Not caring, I asked him why he was bothering me. Embarrassingly, he reminded me that I work for the Oredigger. So yeah, I felt stupid for a while there. For the remainder of this article we shall name our main characters Aladdin and Jasmine because this is a story of love and their names are pretty. Aladdin set the stage for his epic story of romance by describing his ineptitude for socializing, and thus his adoration of hiding in the library. One day, our hero became so lonely (Congressional readings can only bring peace to a soul for so long) that he ventured to semi level D of the ever so complicated library in search of self-help books. Unfortunately, Aladdin became

so enraptured with the sage advice of Dr. Phil that he fell into a deep coma where he actually talked to the relationship guru face to face. After a week of being in an unconscious state, Aladdin quickly got up and realized that his body was shutting down due to lack of Mountain Dew and cold pizza. A quick refuel at his secret stash by the topographic maps left him feeling refreshed and rejuvenated. Alas, his rapid stumble through the maze of books, boxes, and even more super-huge books somehow left him without his keys. Aladdin's first instinct was to crawl through the library on his hands and knees until he found the absent keys. However, his newfound social skills allowed him to realize that by incorporating other people into his search he would find new friends and his keys. Enter Jasmine. The stunningly attractive, library-bound female that the Gravedigger wrote about a couple of weeks ago is actually employed by the library's cartography section. Her name is Jasmine and she has a seductive aroma of ink and radiance.

Aladdin, no longer bound by his nerd-infused social awkwardness, politely asked for assistance in his epic quest of discovery (looking for his keys). Swept off her feet by the shockingly forthright nature of a library-visiting Mines guy, Jasmine immediately fell for Aladdin. At this point in the story, Aladdin thinks he has no shot with this beautiful girl. But the years of lifting ancient texts secretly gave him a physique of one of the less important Greek gods, and thus the key to Jasmine's heart. Immediately distracted from their initial goal of locating keys, Aladdin and Jasmine entered a secret world of intellectual discussion and puppy love. Long story short, Dr. Phil brought love to Mines, which is strange because he is creepy, old, and looks like he smells really bad. After learning about this really strange romantic encounter, I had one goal in mind: find Aladdin's keys. He does not fly on a magic carpet; he drives a sweet '71 429 Jet engine Mustang. This car could smoke the Chrysler 300c hemi any day of the week. Sadly, when I got lost in the library I had to survive by searching for Aladdin's secret junk food stashes. And upon staggering out into the bright light of the Commons I cried tears of joy (cause I found the keys).



COURTESY OF BYRON ELLSWORTH

Mustang- Check out my sweet new car.

Medieval-Days Canceled!

Tim Weilert
Ye Olde Scribe

“Our subjects couldst not believe their bad fate,” said MAC E-Days committee member Sir Bruce of Bugbee. “We were but a fortnight from the festival, and the lutiists had already been confirmed!” Unfortunately for hundreds of peasants and surfs who had purchased their Medi-Eval Days package, complete with custom burlap outer clothing, the bubonic plague made a swift, and deadly comeback this past weekend. Scholarly students who traveled to far off lands during their “spring break” brought back with them mysterious spices,

herbs, and the black plague. King Koren of Brentington had to declare a national state of emergency as hundreds of sick students came to wail at his gates. “Very well, we shall call off the engagement and hold a witch burning instead,” said his majesty, “For that must be the way to stop thine disease.” And so, in stead of normal events such as “ore cart pulling” there will be new activities like “dead body collecting,” the only exception being the trebuchet catapult contest which will remain the same as planned. “There shalt still be much wasailing and consumption of fermented drink,” said Lady Mosby, “For although there has been

tragedy in the kingdom, we shall overcome this wretched illness.” Coors has pulled its support from the event by withdrawing their offer of 500 barrels of ale for the exchange of 30 oxen and 400 acres of land. Ales brewed and drank at the new “Plague-Days” will instead be provided by Lord Aramark. The plague, which has already taken over 150 lives, has long been a source of anguish for doctors and patients alike. Leech supplies at Clear Creek are running low, as more apothecaries use the creatures for medical bleedings. The only known cures for the mysterious disease are de-demonification by drinking holy water or burning one's self at a stake.

APRIL FOOL'S PRANKS

Mike Stone
Prankster at Heart

From the ordinary to the extravagant, here's how to trick someone this April 1st. Wrap a rubber band around the spray hose at your sink. Sit and wait. Scrape away the cream from a couple of Oreos and replace it with a mixture of flour and water. Put a dollar on a fishing string at the library. Classic.

Show your friends how you can drop a penny on your forehead right into a funnel that's securely in the front of your pants. When they try to do it and have their head tilted back to hold the penny, pour a glass of water in the funnel. Smile. Hide some old meats in your friend's gym bag. Classic. Put some icy-hot on a toilet seat at a party. Set up a picnic in an elevator. Wait for the stares.

Fill an open cereal box with ping pong balls and place in a cupboard against the door so it falls when opened. Wait and see. Pour Jello mix into your roommate's toilet at night. When they get up in the morning, they first have to break up the Jello to flush it. On assignment: If you plan on buying something from the Mines student store this April 1st, do so with only pennies. Sorry Ryan.



Peter's Subs and Sandwiches

**FREE 6 inch sub meal
for CSM students!!!**

Just opened in Downtown Golden!!!

Get one free 6 inch sub of your choice with chips and regular drink when you bring this coupon in with a valid Student ID this Friday, April 4th from 12-5pm.

Peter's Subs and Sandwiches 1305 Washington St. Golden, CO 80401

Sudoku!!!

7	3	8	9	5	2	6	1	4
5	6	1	7	3	4	8	9	2
9	4	2	8	6	1	5	7	3
1	2	3	5	4	7	9	8	6
4	7	6	2	8	9	3	5	1
8	5	9	3	1	6	4	2	7
3	8	7	4	2	5	1	6	9
2	1	5	6	9	3	7	4	8
6	9	4	1	7	8	2	3	5

Puzzle by websudoku.com

Last week's Easy Solution.

This week's difficulty: Evil.

ENHANCED-This Sudoku has been placed securely on the bottom half of the page for maximum classroom sneakery solving capabilities.

You're welcome Danny.

						5	3		
	3			7				9	8
	9						1	7	
									3
	8	2	3			1	9	6	
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	7	8						3	
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		1	5						

Puzzle by websudoku.com

Beltway construction is important

It's time to move forward with transportation solutions in Jefferson County

Preston Gibson
President
Jefferson Economic Council

The Colorado School of Mines has very astute students that will be a big part of leading the way to a bright future in scientific and technical fields for our state and our country. You are truly a crown jewel of higher education in Colorado, which will help our Country compete in a global economy.

A demonstration of your astuteness was a recent opinion piece by Kevin Duffy in Duffy's Corner about completion of the beltway through northern Jefferson County. Kevin asserts that the road is needed for many reasons and it is time for the city of Golden to embrace multi-modal transportation solutions. My organization, the Jefferson Economic Council, strongly supports this position.

We have a wonderful situation along the Front Range of Colorado – we are growing in population and employment. This is a much better issue than the problems of the “rust belt” states where jobs and people, along with opportunity, are moving out. This growth, which is expected to be about 1 million people over the next twenty years, mostly comes from us, not people moving to Colorado from other states and countries. This natural increase is the result of births exceeding deaths.

To accommodate this growth, and for Denver and its region to

remain a world class metropolis, it requires a functional regional transportation system. Yes, a multi-modal system is required. We support FasTracks, and we also support completion of the beltway. Its completion will provide for greater mobility and access for the entire region. It will also support economic opportunity – in other words – jobs. The Jefferson Economic Council's focus is the expansion of primary jobs, typically high-tech jobs in the fields of aerospace, energy, and bioscience. An economic impact study recently completed by JEC indicates that an additional 17,000 jobs likely will be created in this corridor over the next 20 years with completion of the beltway.

The Jefferson Economic Council's focus is the expansion of primary jobs, typically high-tech jobs in the fields of aerospace, energy, and bioscience. An economic study recently completed by JEC indicates that an additional 17,000 jobs likely will be created in this corridor over the next 20 years with completion of the beltway.

The beltway completion is also about sustainability. Sustainability means a lot of different things to different people, but allow me to suggest some details. First, let's take a look at open space. There is an abundance of open space

along the corridor. A quick look at a map will show you that considering the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge, White Ranch Park, North Table Mountain and many other preserved open space areas; a very large amount of the land will remain open in perpetuity. And, with completion of the beltway, it is expected that over 20 years, there will be an increase of about \$20 million in sales tax generation for the Jefferson County Open Space program.

Next, let's look at public school funding. Public school funding is expected to increase by \$191.5 million with beltway completion. The numbers for open space and schools are the increase, over what would be generated without beltway completion. Finally, let's look at the current traffic situation. You know that there is stop and go traffic through the Golden section of Highway 93 during the morning and afternoon rush hours. This situation creates excessive noise, and air pollution. It is well known that a smooth flow of traffic is much better, environmentally, than the “stop and go” situation we experience today.

In a recently published article in the Rocky Mountain News on March 19, the Golden Public Works Director, Dan Hartman is quoted as saying “We're not opposed to improvements. We've been out there for years saying some improvements need to be made, but they're just trying to jam a big old road down everyone's throat.” A “big old road” is not at all what we are proposing. The bot-

tom line is that we are proposing to accommodate most of Golden's concerns. What we propose is the elimination of the stoplights along Highway 93, with interchanges that will eliminate the air polluting stop and go traffic. The road itself will largely remain in its current state, a four lane (two lanes in each direction)

parkway. That's right – a four lane parkway – not what some have called a 12 lane elevated freeway. We also support exemplary noise mitigation to make the existing noise environment better in the future than it is today. North of Golden, there will be a toll road, which will connect to the Northwest Parkway. However, the existing lanes on Highway 93 will remain open and will not be tolled. You have probably heard about a 12 lane elevated freeway that has been termed the “beltway of greed” by a local Colorado State Representative. You have probably heard that you will have to pay tolls. Both of these statements are completely untrue.

The beltway has been studied since 1968, with the formation of the I-470 public highway authority. It is now time to complete it. You might have seen recent editorials supporting beltway completion in the Denver Post and the Rocky Mountain News. The Denver Post said, “We wish Broomfield, Arvada and Jeffco luck as they proceed with the detailed engineering and financial planning necessary to complete

the beltway network.” The Rocky Mountain News said, “We've long supported the beltway's completion

The beltway has been studied since 1968, with the formation of the I-470 public highway authority. It is now time to complete it.

in order to improve the flow of traffic and as a logical link in the larger regional transportation grid. Beltways enhance much-needed suburb-to-suburb connections. They take traffic off local streets. They provide motorists with more direct routes to their destinations, thus saving them time and the money spent on increasingly expensive gasoline.”

In conclusion, completing the final 20-mile northwest corridor beltway connection in a timely manner will benefit the region's quality of life by:

- Providing quicker and safer local and regional travel;
- Attracting more local jobs with a healthier mix of commercial and residential uses and reducing commutes;

- And creating sustainable revenue for schools, open space, public infrastructure and public safety.
- Thank you for publishing this piece in your newspaper. The undeniable fact is that we are growing. Your college is growing, Golden is growing, and the Denver metropolitan region is growing. This growth provides great opportunity, but only if we work together now to solve our transportation needs of the future. Let's not look back to the past with closed minds, closed doors, fewer jobs, and lost opportunity.



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The Human's True Ability to Think

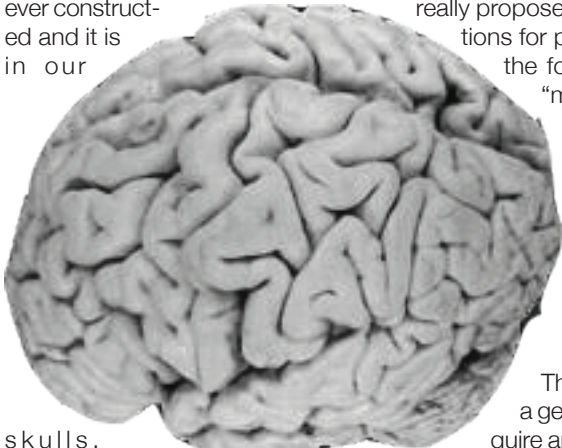
Fabian Brunetti
Staff Writer

Why do we listen to other people's opinions? How come we do not trust ourselves? Day to day we second guess ourselves, leaving us with no straight answer. Why do we trust people who we have never met, never came into contact with, and quite frankly, no nothing about? People in general give in to this ludicrous philosophy that other people's opinions are the correct ones. It is our job as humans to question the queries set forth in this game of life. This is only half of the struggle; the other part is achieving the answer by means of logical and imaginative thinking. If we propose such a profound or simple question, should we not also be able to answer it?

Humans are a very peculiar species. We exhibit similar emotions, desires, and anxieties as animals do, and yet there is a distinct difference. A human's sense of curiosity has most definitely integrated itself from the animal kingdom. All animals divulge this trait in their day to day lives. This curiosity always leads to a positive or negative result. This result in a sense is the answer to the animal's question. If an animal touches something hot, it immediately takes its foot, paw, etc. away from it. At this point the creature will either stay away from the hazard for the rest of its life, or it may become curious later to see if the "hot" object is still hot. Curiosity may manifest itself once or twice more until the animal learns its lesson and never touches it again. This in a sense is a trial and error experiment for an animal. An animal knows when to stop. However, the animal does not rely on other animals to tell it if it is in a hazardous situation.

In the same situation, a human has a similar and opposite experience. A human will most definitely remove their hand if something is upsetting their nervous system, like extremes in heat or cold. The innate curiosity in all humans will then ask a new question, "Why is that hot?" When asking such

a broad and yet profound question, some humans get lazy and immediately desire the answer. A human has proposed a question and yet, they still doubt themselves in finding the answer. If such a fundamental/difficult question is offered by an individual, why does said individual doubt his knowledge in answering the question? The answer is simply laziness and self-doubt. Any human has the capability to answer a question they propose. Just like a textbook has questions, it has answers too. We have the fastest computer ever constructed and it is in our



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skulls, and yet we doubt ourselves. We have all the answers to everything in our heads, it is just locked away, and we need the correct password to figure it out.

Half of the password in a sense is the question we ask. The other portion of the password is the answer. This completed password leads to not only the full answer of the question at hand, but another chamber full of clandestine questions and answers. We have this super computer that was given to us for a reason in our own bodies, and yet we use other people's "computers" much more frequently than our own. There is a famous allegory of a man and his son migrating with a donkey across the Asian continent. Along the way they meet people they have never seen before, and they all pose different methods to how they should be traveling. One says that the son should ride the donkey, another

proposes for the father to ride the donkey, and the last suggests the father and son carry the donkey. The point of this shortened allegory is, nobody knows the exact truth, you have to find it in yourself.

Do not believe everything you hear. Many famous texts are based on this enigmatic yet fundamental idea. The modern education system is flawed; you know this because you participate in it. It does not encourage imaginative/logical thinking. Textbooks, assignments, quizzes, tests, etc. all propose questions, but do they really propose the RIGHT questions for progression? All of the former methods to "measure" people's intelligence have answers that can be acquired directly or indirectly. From a very young age we are taught the wrong ways to learn and think. The idea of following a generic outline to acquire an answer is frankly idiotic. No answer can be reached with a generic set of steps, nothing is this easy. In Buddhism, the ultimate goal one can achieve is Enlightenment. There is something called the Eightfold Path which will get you to Enlightenment, but there are hidden roads in these 8 steps not mentioned purposely. The individual must really go on their own path with no one's help. It is life experiences that

shape Enlightenment. Everyone is capable of achieving it, if they just set their mind to it. Similarly, a TRUE question-answer sequence cannot be found with a common outline. It is no different. If people ask a genuine question, the only way to find the answer is if they take it on themselves.

Unfortunately, planet earth's residents do not follow this idea well. Our minds are so preoccupied with the trials and tribulations in our society, that we desire an answer immediately. We do not want to think of why things are hot, or why things break, or even where

the idea of math originated from. We want clear answers. A portion of our society has undoubtedly progressed, but there is still that majority which remains stagnant. The philosophers and scientists of yore all had that fundamental spark, which ignited their psyche to find the password to unlock new chambers in their brain. An apple fell on Newton's head and that was enough for his life's work. He asked fundamental yet difficult questions, and was able to solve the majority of them. It took him a majority of his life to find these answers, but he persisted and did it. This is what sets aside the great minds from others, persistence. If one thinks and questions about life and tries to solve them him/herself with no outside help, then the answers will eventually come. In contrast, if the individual questions but does not solve, that final portion of the password can never be entered.

Our world is full of mystery, Newton and others realized this. This mystery is uncovered when questions are asked and solved

by the individual themselves. Many scientists slaved over their work. They questioned and

questioned until the days of their deaths. These questions were answered. There is no easy road to achieve a legitimate answer, one must choose one and believe in him or herself. The answers are not always obvious. The famous

scientist, Niels Bohr, had a dream about horse races, which led to a progression in the atomic structure-properties of the atom. His answer manifested itself in his dreams, a realm totally devoted to the nervous system and our high tech computer, the brain. This

shows that the answers lie within us, but they are not always

straightforward. Our brain in a sense gives us a jigsaw puzzle of 5,000 pieces. Each piece is fundamental to the answer. The question is the jigsaw puzzle itself; the answer is the picture at the end. Life is a state function; there are multiple ways to go from start to finish, no evident way for any of it. One may climb mountains, go through rivers, traverse through deserts, jungles, plains, etc. Someone else could just walk straight through, without any perils in their way. The end result is always the same though. What you do in your life is totally up to you. Unfortunately, some people may tell you otherwise.

My solution, don't listen to them. They have self-doubt in themselves, which is not your problem. Worry about yourself, care for other people, but do not believe everything you hear. School is a very important part of your experience on earth, but it is not the end all be all. Go out and enjoy yourself. Instead of looking at the answer key, really figure the answer out for yourself. This will lead to bigger and better aspects in life for you. By knowing the password to one chamber, you will open up a whole different chamber to everything ever imaginable. What is the meaning of life? Asking questions and finding the answers all within yourself, and finding out who you are and what you can accomplish. I leave you all with a quote from the novel Siddhartha, "One must find the source within one's own Self, one must possess it."

The D.C. Handgun Ban

Alec Westerman
Staff Writer

According to the Daily Tar Heel, "Washington, D.C., which had imposed a full handgun ban, is now in the midst of a judicial struggle as city officials appeal a 2007 D.C. Court of Appeals ruling that declared the ban unconstitutional."

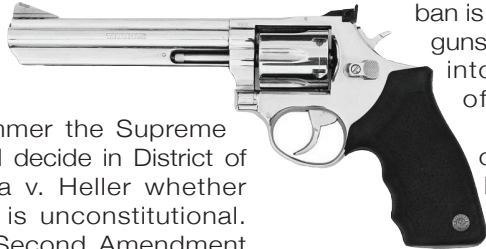
This summer the Supreme Court will decide in District of Columbia v. Heller whether this ban is unconstitutional.

The Second Amendment states: "A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed." If the court's ruling is to be constitutional, clearly some form of gun must remain legal, however, it also makes sense that ICBMs be kept from the public. District of Columbia v. Heller calls into question whether we possess the right to carry hand guns.

The primary characteristic

that distinguishes hand guns from rifles is their portability, their ability to be concealed, and their non-necessity in hunting. Without any recreational or hunting uses, hand guns can be either the tools of self defense or the tools of criminals. The

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idea behind a hand gun ban is to stop hand guns from getting into the hands of bad guys. In the case of a hand gun ban, criminals would go about unarmed. Being perfectly law abiding citizens, they would disarm themselves and remain so forever. In the unlikely case some villain regretted their choice to turn in their hand gun, such weapons would be inaccessible; smuggling is far too burdensome. It can therefore be concluded that such a ban would succeed in its primary directive, keeping hand guns from criminals.

Supposing someone wished

to commit murder they would be forced to forego the luxury of a hand gun and fail. They would not use a hand gun because being caught with such a device would be far more reprehensible than murder itself. They would fail in their murder being that a hand gun is a necessity to carry out such a deed. By this logic a hand gun ban would save lives.

With a hand gun ban self defense would become a non issue. First off all criminals would be not have hand guns and thus fail. Besides, it's not the public's job to defend themselves; it's too gruesome a deed. The police force should handle such matters. Calling 911 in the midst of a murder will result in cops showing up and stopping it with no harm having been done. By this logic, a hand gun ban would have absolutely no adverse effects to public welfare.

Hand guns are devices of death that should be denied all law abiding citizens because non law abiding citizens do bad things with them and self defense is unacceptable.



Alright kids, I haven't really been pissed off for a long time now, but here I go again.

For the past couple of weeks, I have been doing well; talked to some people who I thought were assholes, but they turned out to be pretty nice. Look at that - don't be too quick to judge. Nevertheless, that was then and this is now. I am back to being pissed at everything that moves.

Look students of Mines, if you're that pissed that E-Days did not turn out to be "Zombie Days," you can shut up. You could have joined a committee - the committee that was designed for you to make that dream happen - but you didn't. So, to all you people still complaining, I hope your cardboard boat sinks, because that's what you deserve.

Now, if you "zombie-fetish" people are trying something, you are completely retarded. I don't care if you protest or think that walking down in zombie outfits is going to be cool; it's not. Why can't you people just get over it. Why can't you except the fact that you people can't always get what you want. Look, I'm sure that when you were little, your mom always gave you candy when you whined it for hours and hours.

Now look at you, you fat-ass. Candy

isn't enough for you anymore - you have to take your frustration out on a loved tradition at Mines. I am putting forth an invitation to all people who are true Mines supporters. Have a bucket of water ready, make your water balloons and whenever you see some toilet paper wrapped zombie, make sure that he gets drenched my a couple of "Medieval-ians." Because if not us, who is going to teach that little shit the true meaning of E-Days? Three days where you can act like a normal college student. Three days where studying is almost considered a sin. Three days when other colleges actually come down to visit Mines, where for three days Mines is the coolest university in Colorado.

Most importantly, it's the three days of pure relaxation before the push to the finals takes place. So, to all you zombies: go wrap toilet paper around yourselves, because you will have a hell of a time taking off that nasty wet stuff when we get through with you.

Facebook Status: The meeting for the zombie incursion is going to be at 12 p.m. in the Hall of Justice (ironic huh?) the password is "password."

The Gravedigger

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I read with interest David Somer's "Opinion" article on CSM 101 in the March 24 Oredigger – having been a major player in the introduction of that course back in the 1990's. Too bad he didn't choose to write it as a "Feature" article and do the appropriate research for such. If he had, he might have discovered that his proposal to substitute for CSM 101 a "few days of introduction at the beginning of the fall semester" was exactly how it used to be – but it didn't work then and I doubt it would now.

Back in the 1980's (I know – near the beginning of time), in their first few days at CSM, incoming freshmen were met with placement tests to determine their readiness for Calculus and Chemistry (on which many did not do well) and subjected to numerous presentations given to the entire class in Bunker Auditorium regarding "all they needed to know" about CSM and why. Since by then they had barely found their residence hall rooms and the cafeteria, and had little appreciation of the importance of GPAs and knowing how to calculate them or knowing how to manage their time or study effectively, they gleaned little information on these and other subjects presented. So it was decided that there must be a better way – maybe the way (it was discovered) that many other universities were already using, successfully: a "Freshman Year Experience" course.

The original concept of CSM 101, called here the "Freshman Success Seminar", was to "parcel out" such information at times during the fall semester that students would be better prepared and more motivated to use it. As an example, waiting to discuss study skills/exam preparation techniques until shortly after students had received grades on their first Calculus test and had, for the first time in many cases, realized that a number of letter grades other than A or B actually existed.

Additionally, as a freshman, the knowledge that some "older" person on campus actually knows you personally and cares about your health, feelings and academic progress has been proven everywhere to have a significant effect on improving retention. Hence, mentors were chosen who would do this and also teach the subject material. I used to refer to them as older friends who could offer advice but not lend money.

So, without addressing David's other points, I would argue that while any program can be improved, CSM 101 is definitely not one that should disappear.

Warren Spaulding
Adjunct professor, McBride
Honors Program
Former Registrar and Associate Dean of Students

Dear Editor,

Those in the Mines community who enjoy a walk or run on the Clear Creek pathway will notice heavy equipment in the stream just above the kayak course for the next few weeks, and should be cautious of a front end loader on the pathway, moving large boulders to the excavator in the stream. This is a stream restoration project, initiated by West Denver Trout Unlimited, a local fisheries conservation group, to improve the trout habitat in this readily accessible portion of Clear Creek. The current phase of the work will stop at the 6th Ave. Bridge to allow for spring runoff, but will continue in the late fall, concluding at the lower boundary of the Grant Terry Open Space Park.

Funding for this project comes from Division of Wildlife, City of Golden, Jefferson County Open Space, Coors, and various individuals and groups within Trout Unlimited. Important contributions of materials and labor have also come from the project contractor, Frontier Environmental Services, from the Frei brothers who own the rock quarry on U.S. 6, from Kelly Trucking, and from the City of Golden. Including volunteer labor, well over \$200,000 will ultimately be devoted to this effort.

Because the south bank of the lower stretch of this project is Mines property, we were required to complete appropriate legal agreements with Mines for this project. Anne Walker, our CSM legal counsel, was extremely cooperative and helpful, and we could not have secured our funding and permitting without her help. People in Facilities Management were also very helpful, especially Tim Cake (now retired) and later, Gary Bowersock. West Denver Trout Unlimited offers these fine folks a hearty thank you!

We hope that the Mines students and faculty all will enjoy these stream improvements, and also that if they do fish, they will help us protect this fragile fishery by practicing "catch and release".

Glen Edwards
University Professor Emeritus

Dear Editor,

something to the effect of, "Instead of sitting in your rooms, get out and meet people!" The Gravedigger in particular does nothing but rant. While I understand that is the point, his articles are often poorly written and rather crude. Immediately following a sentence in which he forgot a crucial word is the phrase "Stop being a moron..." Take your own advice and proofread.

In response to the Gravedigger's article about Geek of the Week, you should not be so quick to judge them. I am friends with several of them, and they lead "normal" lives. They are simply celebrating something that makes them unique, why try and change that? Why should they desire to be "normal" by your standards? Lastly, if you think this school is lame, leave. No one is keeping you here.

No hurt feelings Gravedigger, pessimism just isn't fitting when you are suggesting we change the attitude on this campus. That change you speak of includes you.

-Heather Oertli

Develop the Roan
BLM plan is the reasonable option

David Wilson
Guest Writer

A recent Bureau of Land Management decision that rejected some of Governor Ritter's recommendations concerning oil and gas drilling on the Roan Plateau in Western Colorado has caused great controversy in many circles. Reading many of the reactions to this decision, one would assume that the BLM had sacrificed the Roan to oil and gas companies, allowing them to turn it into a barren wasteland for the sake of making a few extra bucks.

The reality, however, is somewhat different. The BLM's plan for the Roan is reasonable and well constructed, balancing the need for protecting the region while still allowing access to natural gas resources that are critical for both the welfare of the state and the nation. This plan should be accepted and acted on soon, before a change in administrations jeopardizes Colorado's ability to benefit from this wonderful natural resource.

The biggest issue at the moment seems to concern the BLM's rejection of several of Ritter's guidelines for development, specifically, a reduction in the area of the protected zone at the top, and a decision not to employ phased leasing. While it is probably true that increasing the protected area would reduce the environmental impact somewhat,

the current plan as it stands only allows for the development of one percent of the surface at any time, which should lead to a very low impact operation. Additionally, this one percent, phased development provision makes the phased leasing redundant, ineffective, and not worth the extra red tape it would create. It is worth noting that the Roan plan is one of the most restrictive oil and gas development plans ever created, and that great amounts of study went into its creation.

When considering these issues, it is easy to imagine an us versus them, black and white battle between the honest, hardworking people of Western Colorado, and the evil, greedy oil companies who want to destroy it all in the name of profit. However, the reality is that almost all of us rely on energy created by oil and natural gas in our everyday lives. The prices of everyday goods and services are all linked into the price of oil and gas, such that increasing oil prices will lead to price increases across the board. Furthermore, we depend on foreign countries

to provide us with much of this energy, jeopardizing our national security and economic stability.

By responsibly developing rich, local resources such as the Roan, we can reduce some of this dependence on foreign energy, stimulate our local economy, and provide more affordable energy for all. Also, since the state gets to collect a share of royalties on all developments, Colorado will receive additional money, which it can use to improve the welfare of all its citizens, and address other problems as it sees fit. These are all good things, and extend way beyond merely boosting the bottom line of the oil and gas companies.

To get all these benefits, though, certain Colorado congressmen need to stop placing barriers in the way of development. There is a responsible plan in place, and it should be acted on before the next administration comes in. Delaying development in this economic climate is simply irresponsible. Though it is not perfect, the BLM's plan is a much needed compromise on a divisive issue that has huge implications for Colorado and the nation. Develop the Roan, develop it responsibly, and everyone will benefit.



The Editorial Board would like to encourage members of the CSM community to attend the ...

High Grade Open House

Monday, April 7th at 6:00 p.m.
Student Center, Ballroom B

High Grade, CSM's literary and arts journal, will host an open house for the release of the 2008 edition. There will be a poetry reading and art show. Refreshments will be served. Everyone is invited to attend.

MLB Preview | American League

Matthew Pusard
Content Manager

AL East Boston Red Sox (98-64)

The reigning champs have to be given the benefit of the doubt here. Their starting pitching may be a little different this year because of Josh Beckett's wonky back (though the team claims it is fine now) and Curt Schilling's spaghetti-thin bicep tendon, but they still have a championship-caliber team. Their offense with David Ortiz and the mashers is still potent, their youth proved themselves in the playoffs last year, and Daisuke Matsuzaka will likely be much better than last season. Don't count the Bo Sox out.

Toronto Blue Jays (93-69)

This is the year for the biggest victims of the prominent AL East to make their move. Colorado native Roy Halladay anchors the deepest pitching staff in the AL East and the team has a serviceable offense led by Alex Rios, Vernon Wells, and "The Big Hurt" Frank Thomas. Pitching may win championships, but a second place finish in this division is just about as difficult and impactful for this squad.

New York Yankees (92-70)

A-Rod returns, along with the

majority of New York's aging stars, but the key here is pitching. It almost blew up their playoff streak last year and will likely finish them off this year. The team has promising youngsters, but pitching for the Yanks is the hardest thing out there. Just ask Randy Johnson or Kevin Brown. The team resigned a bunch of guys who struggled for the majority of last season and unless Phil Hughes or Ian Kennedy is way ahead of the curve, the Yanks will finally pay. First year coach Joe Girardi will likely get a lot of undeserved flak for this squad.

Tampa Bay Rays (72-90)

The Rays aren't trying to win this season, yet again. They have a lot of great young talent like BJ Upton, Carl Crawford, Scott Kazmir, and last year's big surprise Carlos Pena. Ready-to-go prospect Evan Longoria proved he could play in the majors during spring training by vastly outplaying Willy Aybar, but he still got sent back down to the minors. It was a strategic move by TB to keep him under contract for an additional year, but it sends a message to the team that management doesn't believe in this season.

Baltimore Orioles (63-99)

Why does a team trade a great young talent like Erik Bedard? The

roster is bereft of recognizable names, sans Brian Roberts who showed up on the Mitchell Report, and its only hope right now is right fielder Nick Markakis. This team looks like the Colorado Rockies circa 2001.

AL Central Detroit Tigers (101-61)

The Tigers offense might break records just like this year's New England Patriots. After scoring 887 runs last year, they added a bigger, younger version of A-Rod: Miguel Cabrera. Their limiting factor may be pitching, but ace Justin Verlander is very good and the rest of the staff will get big leads to work with throughout the year.

Cleveland Indians (93-69)

The Indians melted down in the ALCS last year and will be back for blood. They have another prolific offense with the best-hitting catcher, Victor Martinez, leading the way. Their pitchers, CC Sabathia and Fausto Carmona, will likely be a little more beatable this season, but DH Travis Hafner should have a huge rebound year. The team should get a new closer, though. Joe Borowski, with a 5.07 ERA last year, will continue giving the team heart attacks in the 9th.

Kansas City Royals (76-86)

The Royals edge the rest of the division because of future prospects. Billy Butler, Alex Gordon, and Zach Greinke are just a few of the players with bright futures ahead. They just need more

Marching with Madness

Matthew Pusard
Content Manager

Davidson is elite, UNC is dominant, UCLA is shaky, and Memphis got screwed.

These are the conclusions that can be made from the "March Madness" NCAA basketball tournament, which had just completed its third

seasoning and, besides Greinke, their pitching will be spotty at best.

Chicago White Sox (73-89)

Three years removed from their World Series win, the Sox have not done enough to stay competitive. Their offense is virtually the same, but their signature pitching staff is in ruins. Mark Buehrle falls apart at the ends of seasons, Javier Vazquez is very hot and cold, and the rest of the staff had an ERA over 5 last year with no signs of improvement. Ozzie Guillen needs to do something to shake this team up or his job might be on the line.

Minnesota Twins (68-94)

How does a team recover from losing the league's best pitcher and their incredible centerfielder in one offseason? They likely won't recover. They still have some decent hitters, but their biggest wild card is Francisco Liriano. 2 years ago, he was pitching better than Johan Santana, before an injury derailed him. Since then, he has undergone Tommy John surgery, from which half of recipients fully recover. Only time will tell if Liriano is lucky.

Check Out Oredigger.net for the AL West!

round at this paper's deadline. The most prominent story is the inclusion of Davidson, this year's Cinderella, in the Elite Eight round. Most people are hard pressed to locate Davidson on a map (it's in North Carolina and 20 miles north of Charlotte), but this relative unknown has been making its mark on the tournament by upsetting heavy favorites like Gonzaga, Wisconsin, and Georgetown (a team some had going to the Final Four).

They are making history on the back of Stephen Curry, the son of former NBA player Dell Curry. On his shoes, he has written "I can do all things" and it is hard to argue with that point after 4 straight 30+ point games, including one in last year's tournament, joining an elite group of 3 other players to ever accomplish that feat. Big schools passed on Curry because of his size, but he's grown to 6'3" and has a chip on his shoulder that he is cashing in. Davidson also has one of the best unheralded coaches in college right now in Bob McKillop and the team is riding a 25 game winning streak. They know how to win and may be an even more legitimate team than George Mason in 2006's tournament. Still, they have to go through #1 seed Kansas, which may have the tournament's deepest team.

UNC, the tournament's obvious favorite, has been dominant if boring at this point. With Tyler Hansbrough in tow, they should be fine, but their Elite Eight opponent Louisville has an experienced Rick Pitino in charge so they should not be underestimated. UCLA, a favorite to make the finals,

has struggled through its past two games, but freshman center Kevin Love has had a big part in bailing them out and the team's struggles could make them mentally tough enough to handle Xavier and every team afterwards. Love is a NBA star in the making and not seeing him go farther would be a crime.

The biggest travesty of the tournament, though, is the mistreatment of Memphis. As a team that lost only one game all season,

they were a #1 seed and those seeds usually get preferential treatment when it comes to tournament game locations. UNC hasn't even left North Carolina yet. But Memphis got to play in Houston. It is the closest location to the school, but their Elite Eight opponent is Texas so this is essentially a road game in hostile territory. There have been murmurs about a bias by the tournament against mid-major teams like Memphis because they aren't big money makers and this game is evidence that maybe the rumors are true. Texas without home court advantage is formidable enough, but now Derrick Rose and the rest of John Calipari's team must make the best of it.

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DEADLINE THURS, APRIL 17TH

TRACK MEET
THURS, APRIL 17TH
THURS, APRIL 24TH @ 6PM



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